have been permitted to be set up in the private sector in the State of Gujarat.

(c) and (d) These details will be known only after the detailed projects reports become available.

Transporting Natural Gas through HBJ Pipeline for Fertilizer Plants

2462. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the HBJ pipeline was originally conceived for transporting natural gas for fertilizer plants only; and

(b) whether it was based on a study that it would be more economical to transport gas through pipeline and manufacture fertilizers rather than to transport fertilizers over long distances?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Requirement of Natural Gas

2463. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity of natural gas required to meet all the commitments from Hazira and HBJ pipeline;

(b) what was the projected availablity of gas at Hazira when these comitment were made; and

(c) whether this projected availablity includes gas from the Tapti fields ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The projected availability in the Year 1990 when the last commitments were made was 40 MMSCMD by 1994-95, which included supplies from Tapti/Gandhar fields. Commitments were made after applying a diversity factor for both firm and fallback users.

Few Takers for Oil Exploration contracts

2464. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the fourth round of bidding for exploration contracts has not attracted many multinational Oil Companies as per the news item entitled "Few takers for Oil exploration Contracts", which appeared in the "Indian Express", dated the 29th October, 1992; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) A total of 24 bids have been received from 31 companies for 13 blocks. 21 foreign companies have participated in these bids.

Number of Gas/Oil Cargoes Purchased from other Countries

2465. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) number of gas/oil cargoes that have been purchased from other countries or accepted for purchase by Indian Oil Corporation and other Oil Companies of the country for East and West Coasts of the country (separately) in the current year, compared to such purchase made in the previous year; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor and the amount involved ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :